

ABSTRACT

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The present invention discloses an apparatus and method for extracting a sample from a strip of material. The apparatus comprises a roller having a periphery surface, a cutting wheel having a cutting die extending from its periphery, and wherein the material strip advances between the roller and the cutting wheel. During advancement of the material strip, the cutting wheel rotates in coordinated relation and into a position wherein the cutting die engages the material strip and rotates through engagement with the periphery surface of the roller, thereby extracting a sample from the material strip. The method comprises advancing a strip of material between a roller having a hardened periphery surface and a cutting wheel having a cutting die extending from the periphery thereof, rotating the cutting wheel so that the cutting die engages the strip of material and the hardened roller periphery, thereby extracting a sample from said strip, and rotating the cutting wheel to an ejection position, whereby the sample is ejected from the cutting die.